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Size of unauthorized tourism of The Danube Delta: causes, effects, solutions

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Abstract

In recent years, in Romania, the phenomenon of unauthorized tourism has assumed alarming extent. Along with agro hostels authorized, Delta area is animated too, by type of pensions unauthorized increasingly numerous. The objective of this paper is to analyze the authorized and unauthorized tourism by Danube Delta in order to see who the true is the dimension of classified tourism by the National Authority for Tourism and identify some solutions becoming legal businesses. As a working method, we applied a questionnaire authorized administrators of rural tourism within the Danube Delta. The sample consisted of 31 respondents who answered a series of 13 questions about their activities and relevant authorizing units. Reasons for representatives of rural tourism unauthorized choose not to authorize are the most diverse, from low income, up to the bureaucracy and high taxes imposed by local and central governments.

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1. Introduction

Unauthorized agro hostels presents a significant share of total housing units, be they located in the region of the Danube Delta Reservation. Clearly, unauthorized them is the result of several factors, socio-economic, that local authorities do not know and still do not take into account (Alecu, 2006), which is why the questionnaire applied to the unauthorized agro units within the reserve Delta seeks to identify a number of factors that make us a better understanding of the behavior (Vâlceanu, 2005) of these unauthorized accommodations.

Unfortunately, few authors have analyzed this phenomenon which would seriously harm the quality of tourism services both of central and of local budget (Robu, 2014).

2. Material and Methods

The questionnaire applied addresses to unauthorized administrators of rural tourism within the Danube Delta. Thus, the sample consists of 31 respondents who answered a series of 13 questions about their activities and relevant authorizing their units, taking into account the degree classification units involved representatives which most often it is subjective, on the capacity of units and an average price for a night (Pecican, 2007).

1. How do you assess possible classification level of your pension?
2. What is the capacity of your accommodation?
3. What is an average price for an overnight stay?
4. What is the average time that visitors spend on your pension?
5. What is the period when you have in the pension most of the tourists?
6. Except accommodation service, what another service is most requested by tourists?
7. Do you consider that the current number of tourists, which we have, is satisfactory?
8. What measures should be taken to facilitate access to an influx of tourists?
9. How do you assess the involvement of local government in supporting the deployment of your business?
10. Do you consider that the legislation applied so far, concerning the protection of the Danube Delta Reservation, you jeopardize the future of the business?
11. What measures should be taken for a more effective protection of the Danube Delta Reservation?
12. What is the reason you chose to work without authorization?
13. This option affects the number of tourists?

3. Results and Discussions

Analyse the dynamics of tourist flow recorded to the Administration of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (ARBDD), according to data received from the 168 authorized companies that have engaged in tourism DDBR, shows that by the end of the tourist season, in 2014, there was a number of: 5400 accommodation seats, 12 hotels, 101 guesthouses, 54 pontoon bedroom, 2 Hydro, one ship passengers, five camping sites, one youth camp. Tourism activity carried out in 2014 in DDBR measure is not particularly high considering the potential of the area (Honțuș A.C, 2013).

Besides the official data taken into account in the assessment of the tourism in DDBR it should be noted the unorganized tourism, knowing this phenomenon, in 2014, a slight increase compared to previous years especially in areas with high tourism potential: St. Gheorghe, Sulina, Crisan, Mila 23 (Cretu R.C, 2013).

According to the reports received from authorized operators to carry out tourism on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, in 2014, has as a total of 59,039 tourists, of which 32,037 Romanian tourists and 27,002 foreign tourists (Fig. 1).

Compared to the number of tourists who come through travel agencies and whose number was reported by ARBDD, Delta has been visited by tourists arrived on their own and which were used by public transport or their own means, state in tents placed in camping areas (Rotman, 2014) or have stayed in the townships around DDBR without a clear declared.

In total they consider unauthorized representatives of rural tourism in excess of 45% that their unity would receive a rating of 3 stars / daisies, 25.81% believe that it would get 4 stars / daisies, 19.35% - 5 stars / daisies, while only 9.68% of those surveyed consider that a pension is likely to obtain a classification of 2 stars / daisies (Table 1).

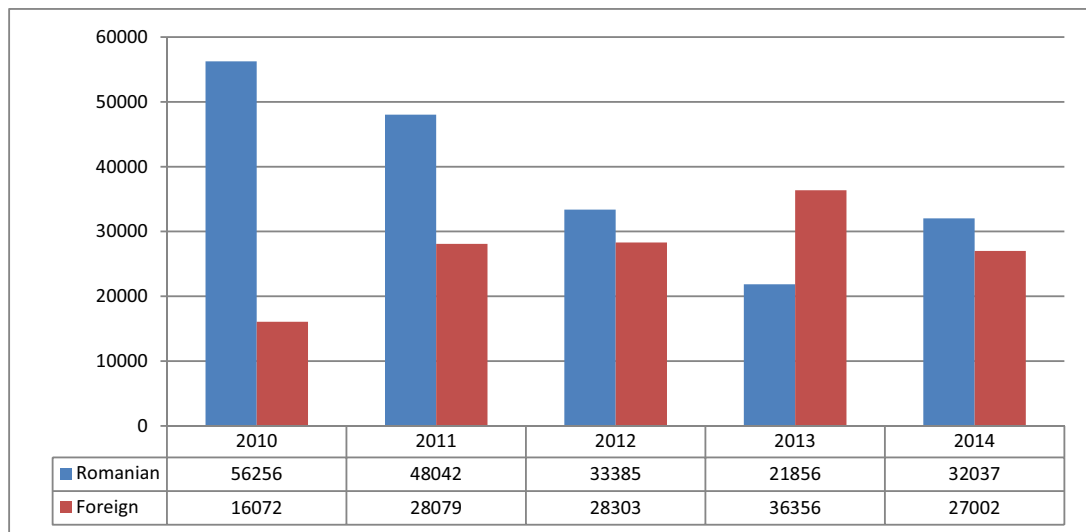


Fig. 1. The flow of tourists registered by the Authority of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Source: ARBDD, 2014)

Table 1. The structure of unauthorized rural tourism accommodation capacity depending on the level of self-classification of units.

Self-awarded degree classification	What is the capacity of your accommodation? (rooms)				Total
	2 rooms	3 – 4 rooms	5 – 6 rooms	7 – 8 rooms	
2 stars/daisies	3.23%	3.23%	3.23%	0.00%	9.68%
3 stars/daisies	9.68%	9.68%	16.13%	9.68%	45.16%
4 stars/daisies	0.00%	6.45%	9.68%	9.68%	25.81%
5 stars/daisies	0.00%	0.00%	6.45%	12.90%	19.35%
Total	12.90%	19.35%	35.48%	32.26%	100.00%

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

Between representatives of rural tourism unauthorized 38.71% practice an average tariff for an overnight stay below 120 lei, 35.48% of respondents said they practice an average tariff of between 201 and 300 lei, 16.13% were a rate of between 121 lei and 200 lei, while 9.68% of the representatives of rural tourism unauthorized practice an average tariff for overnight accommodation for over 300 lei (Table 2). The representatives of rural tourism authorized considers that their unit would be classified to 3 stars / daisies, for the most part of their practice as an average tariff of 120 lei per night (29,03% of all respondents) in while those who evaluates accommodation 4 stars/daisies practice a price of between 201 lei and 300 lei.

Table 2. The structure of the degree self-classification of unauthorized rural tourism accommodation depending on an average price for an overnight stay

Self-awarded degree classification	What is an average price for an overnight stay?				Total
	< 120 lei	121 – 200 lei	201 – 300 lei	> 300 lei	
2 stars/daisies	9.68%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.68%
3 stars/daisies	29.03%	6.45%	9.68%	0.00%	45.16%
4 stars/daisies	0.00%	9.68%	16.13%	0.00%	25.81%
5 stars/daisies	0.00%	0.00%	9.68%	9.68%	19.35%
Total	38.71%	16.13%	35.48%	9.68%	100.00%

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

We can see that in terms of accommodation capacity, representatives of rural tourism which have 5-6 rooms unauthorized practice mostly an average nightly rate below 120 lei (16.13% of those surveyed) and those who have 7-8 rooms mostly practice a price of between 201 and 300 lei (16.13% of those interviewed) (Table 3).

Representatives of rural tourism unauthorized states 58% of tourists who spend their holidays at her hostel opting to spend from 8 to 14 nights, 26% spend between 4 and 7 nights, while only 16% choose to spend less 3 nights accommodation units represented by them (Table 4). Authorized representatives of rural tourism of their own self-drive 3 stars / daisies, most of them say that tourists who come to their pension opting to sit between 8:14 nights (22.58% of respondents). The same variation is noticed by those who self-evaluation unit 4 and 5 stars / daisies (19.35% and 12.9% of the respondents).

Table 3. The structure of unauthorized rural tourism accommodation capacity depending on the average price of a night's accommodation

Accommodation capacity	What is an average price for an overnight stay?				Total
	< 120 lei	121 – 200 lei	201 – 300 lei	> 300 lei	
2 rooms	9.68%	0.00%	3.23%	0.00%	12.90%
3 – 4 rooms	9.68%	3.23%	6.45%	0.00%	19.35%
5 – 6 rooms	16.13%	3.23%	9.68%	6.45%	35.48%
7 – 8 rooms	3.23%	9.68%	16.13%	3.23%	32.26%
Total	38.71%	16,13%	35.48%	9.68%	100.00%

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

Table 4. The analysis of the average stay that tourists spend in the unauthorized agro hostels according to the degree self classification

What is the average time that visitors spend on your pension?						
Degree classification (stars/daisies)						
Degree classification	U.M.	<3 days	4 – 7 days	8 – 14 days	Total	
		No.	No.	No.	No.	%
2 stars/daisies	No.	2	0	1	3	10%
3 stars/daisies	No.	3	4	7	14	45%
4 stars/daisies	No.	0	2	6	8	26%
5 stars/daisies	No.	0	2	4	6	19%
Total	No.	5	8	18	31	-
	%	16%	26%	58%	-	100%
Standardized residue						
2 stars/daisies	No.	2.18	-0.88	-0.56		
3 stars/daisies	No.	0.49	0.20	-0.40		
4 stars/daisies	No.	-1.14	-0.04	0.63		
5 stars/daisies	No.	-0.98	0.36	0.28		
Chi Square Calculated =	9.15	Critical value (theoretical) =		10.64	p > 0.1(*)	
Degree of freedom (df) =	6			12.59	p > 0.05(**)	
Cramer's V =	0.38	Pearson's C =		16.81	p > 0,01(***)	
					0.48	

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

Analyzing the opinion of representatives of rural tourism unauthorized structure on average that tourists spend in pension depending on the capacity, a significant part of the respondents, 19.35%, available accommodation units with 5-6 rooms argue that most tourists choose to spend from 8 to 14 nights. The same respondents said and pensions which have 7-8 rooms, representing 22.58% of those interviewed (Table no. 5).

Table 5. The analysis of the average stay that tourists spend in the unauthorized agro hostels according to the degree self classification

What is the average time that visitors spend on your pension?						
Degree classification (stars/daisies)						
Degree classification	U.M.	<3 days No.	4 – 7 days No.	8 – 14 days No.	Total No.	%
2 rooms	No.	1	0	3	4	13%
3 – 4 rooms	No.	3	1	2	6	19%
5 – 6 rooms	No.	1	4	6	11	35%
7 – 8 rooms	No.	0	3	7	10	32%
Total	No.	5	8	18	31	-
	%	16%	26%	58%	-	100%
Standardized residue						
2 rooms	No.	0.44	-1.02	0.44		
3 – 4 rooms	No.	2.07	-0.44	-0.79		
5 – 6 rooms	No.	-0.58	0.69	-0.15		
7 – 8 rooms	No.	-1.27	0.26	0.50		
Chi Square Calculated =	9.28	Critical value (theoretical) =		10.64	p > 0.1(*)	
Degree of freedom (df) =	6			12.59	p > 0.05(**)	
Cramer's V =	0.39			16.81	p > 0.01(***)	
		Pearson's C =			0.48	

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

And from the point of view of an average price for an overnight stay, the representatives of rural tourism unauthorized practicing an average tariff of accommodation between 201 and 300 lei, says most tourists choose to spend from 8 to 14 nights representing 22.58% of all respondents (Table 6). If representatives of establishments practicing a price below 120 lei opinions are divided so that 12.9% (of total respondents) say that most tourists choose to stay under 3 nights, while 16.13% (of the total respondents) choose to spend between 8 and 14 days at the guesthouse represented by the respondents.

Table 6. The analysis of the average stay that tourists spend in the unauthorized agro hostels according to the degree self classification

What is the average time that visitors spend on your pension?						
Degree classification (stars/daisies)						
Degree classification	U.M.	<3 days No.	4 – 7 days No.	8 – 14 days No.	Total No.	%
< 120 lei	No.	4	3	5	12	39%
121 - 200 lei	No.	0	1	4	5	16%
201 - 300 lei	No.	1	3	7	11	35%
> 300 lei	No.	0	1	2	3	10%
Total	No.	5	8	18	31	-
	%	16%	26%	58%	-	100%
Standardized residue						
< 120 lei	No.	1.48	-0.05	-0.75		
121 - 200 lei	No.	-0.90	-0.26	0.64		
201 - 300 lei	No.	-0.58	0.10	0.24		
> 300 lei	No.	-0.70	0.26	0.20		
Chi Square Calculated =	5.04	Critical value (theoretical) =		10.64	p > 0.1(*)	
Degree of freedom (df) =	6			12.59	p > 0.05(**)	
Cramer's V =	0.29			16.81	p > 0.01(***)	
		Pearson's C =			0.37	

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

Regarding the opinion of the representatives of unauthorized rural tourism regarding the involvement of local government in supporting conduct tourist activities, 84% of representatives of rural tourism the interviewees believe that the involvement of local government is insignificant, 13% of those interviewed. They say that local involvement is significant, while only 3% of the authorized representatives of rural tourism authorities say that involvement is important (Table 7).

Table 7. The structure of representatives' opinion of unauthorized rural tourism pensions regarding the involvement of local government in supporting the activities carried out by them according to the degree self-classification

How do you assess the involvement of local government in supporting the deployment of your business?						
After degree classification (stars/ daisies)						
Degree classification	U.M.	important	insignificant	significant	Total	
		No.	No.	No.	No.	%
2 stars/daisies	No.	0	3	0	3	10%
3 stars/daisies	No.	0	14	0	14	45%
4 stars/daisies	No.	0	6	2	8	26%
5 stars/daisies	No.	1	3	2	6	19%
Total	No.	1	26	4	31	-
	%	3%	84%	13%	-	100%
Standardized residue						
2 stars/daisies	No.	-0.31	0.31	-0.62		
3 stars/daisies	No.	-0.67	0.66	-1.34		
4 stars/daisies	No.	-0.51	-0.27	0.95		
5 stars/daisies	No.	1.83	-0.91	1.39		
Chi Square Calculated =	10.63	Critical value (theoretical) =		10.64	p > 0,1(*)	
				12.59	p > 0.05(**)	
Degree of freedom (df) =	6			16.81	p > 0,01(***)	
Cramer's V =	0.41	Pearson's C =			0.51	

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

Involving local government in supporting tourism activity, depending on the degree of self classification unauthorized representatives of rural tourism, it is noted that 45.16% of the representatives pensions unauthorized agro who self-awarded 3 stars / daisies believe that government involvement is one insignificant (Brown, 1997) 6.45% of total respondents who self-awarded 4 and 5 stars / daisies believe that the involvement of public authorities is significant and only 3.23% of self-assessed 5-star boarding representatives say that the involvement of local authorities is an important (Cretu R.C, 2013).

Analyzing the opinion of the representatives of rural tourism unauthorized as to why they chose to operate without a permit, 55% of representatives of rural tourism who responded to the questionnaire say that the main reason they chose to operate without authorization relates to the fact that revenue of tourism activity is very low (Higgins, 1992; Tudor V. 2013), 35% of the representatives of unauthorized pensions believe that the bureaucracy would prevent to obtain authorization, while only 10% of those who answered the questionnaire said that they have not obtained the authorization because of the level of charges applied by local governments (Table 8).

Probability of $p > 0.05$ on why it works without authorization by the degree of self-classifying said it appears that there is a significant association between the reasons that they chose to operate without license.

Table 8. The structure of representatives opinion of the unauthorized rural tourism pensions on why that works without authorization according to the self classification level

Which is why you chose to operating without authorization?						
After degree classification (stars/daisies)						
Degree classification	U.M.	The bureaucratic No.	Low receipts from tourism No.	The level of fees applied No.	Total	
2 stars/daisies	No.	0	1	2	No. 3	% 10%
3 stars/daisies	No.	5	8	1	14	45%
4 stars/daisies	No.	3	5	0	8	26%
5 stars/daisies	No.	3	3	0	6	19%
Total	No.	11	17	3	31	-
	%	35%	55%	10%	-	100%
Standardized residue						
2 stars/daisies	No.	-1.03	-0,50	3,17		
3 stars/daisies	No.	0.01	0,12	-0.30		
4 stars/daisies	No.	0.10	0,29	-0.88		
5 stars/daisies	No.	0.60	-0,16	-0.76		
Chi Square Calculated =	13.32**	Critical value (theoretical) =		10.64	p > 0,1(*)	
				12.59	p > 0.05(**)	
Degree of freedom (df) =	6			16.81	p > 0,01(***)	
Cramer's V =	0.46	Pearson's C =			0.55	

Source: Data processing from the questionnaire

4. Conclusions

By testing the opinion of representatives of rural tourism statistics unauthorized (Chi-square = 13.32 **; Critical value = 12.59 a nd degree classification a self on the issue under examination and analysis of R (residue standardized) observed significant differences in the response given by representatives pensions self-assessed 2 stars / daisies who chose to operate without authorization because the level of existing taxes, allowing us to formulate the conclusion that the opinion of the representatives hostels on why they chose to operate without a permit is influenced by the classification self-awarded by those. Also, by Pearson's interpretation C. Cramer's V respectively, in this case it can be said that developed between the representatives of pensions to why they chose to operate without authorization and self-awarded degree classification (Pearson's C = 0.46; Cramer's V = 0.55), no association between the aspects considered, representatives of rural tourism opinion on why they chose to operate without a permit is influenced by a self-classification.

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